



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A signaling network node configured for routing a received signaling message having message information, the signaling network node comprising:

- a routing table configured for storing message class entries identifying respective message classes, each message class entry specifying at least one destination link identifier for a corresponding destination link assigned to the corresponding message class; and
- a processor configured for selecting one of the destination links based on the processor classifying the received signaling message as assigned to the corresponding a specific message class[[,]] based on prescribed message class selection criteria, the processor configured for selecting one of the message class entries based on determining the corresponding identified message class matches the specific message class of the received signaling message, the one message class entry specifying the corresponding destination link identifier for the one destination link.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 1, wherein the destination links are grouped in prescribed linksets having respective linkset identifiers, the routing table further including linkset entries including destination point code entries and the respective assigned linkset identifiers, the processor configured for selecting the one message class entry based on determining a match between a destination point code value in the received signaling message and the destination point code entry of one of the linkset entries, and matching the ~~classified~~ received signaling message to the one message class entry specifying the at least one destination link within the one linkset identified by the one linkset entry.

3. (ORIGINAL) The node of claim 2, wherein the received signaling message is identified by the processor as corresponding to a message class having a plurality of the destination links assigned, the routing table further including a signaling link selection entry associated with a corresponding one of the destination link identifiers, the processor configured for selecting the one message class entry further based on a match between a signaling link

selection value in the received signaling message and one of the signaling link selection entries.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 2, wherein the ~~processor is configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on at least a portion of the destination point code.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of linkset interfaces configured for receiving signaling messages from respective input linksets, the ~~processor configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria including classifying the received signaling message based on identifying one of a plurality of input linksets having supplied the received signaling message.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 1, wherein the ~~processor is configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on prescribed user-selected selection criteria.

7. (ORIGINAL) The node of claim 6, wherein the user-selected selection criteria includes a user-selected data pattern.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 1, wherein the ~~processor is configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on a service indicator value from the received signaling message.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 1, wherein the ~~processor is configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on global title translation (GTT) parameters retrieved from the received signaling message.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 9, wherein ~~the processor classifies~~ the prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received message based on a Global Title Address (GTA) from the GTT parameters.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method in a signaling network node for routing a received signaling message having message information, the method including:

storing message class entries identifying respective message classes in a routing table, each message class entry specifying at least one destination link identifier for a corresponding destination link assigned to the corresponding message class;

classifying the received signaling message as assigned to a specific ~~one of the~~ message class ~~classes~~, based on prescribed message class selection criteria;

first selecting one of the message class entries based on the corresponding identified message class matching the specific message class of ~~classifying~~ the received signaling message; and

second selecting one of the destination links based on the at least one destination link identifier specified in the one message class entry.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein:

the destination links are grouped in prescribed linksets having respective linkset identifiers;

the storing step includes storing linkset entries including destination point code entries and the respective assigned linkset identifiers; and

the first selecting step includes determining a match between a destination point code value in the received signaling message and the destination point code entry of one of the linkset entries, and matching the ~~classified~~ received signaling message to the one message class entry specifying the at least one destination link within the one linkset identified by the one linkset entry.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12, wherein:

the storing step further includes storing in the routing table a signaling link selection entry associated with a corresponding one of the destination link identifiers;

the second selecting step includes selecting the one message class entry based on a match between a signaling link selection value in the received signaling message and one of the signaling link selection entries.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 12, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ includes prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on at least a portion of the destination point code.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ includes prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on identifying one of a plurality of input linksets having supplied the received signaling message.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ includes prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on prescribed user-selected selection criteria.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16, wherein the user-selected selection criteria includes a user-selected data pattern.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ includes prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on a service indicator value from the received signaling message.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~classifying step~~

~~includes~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on global title translation (GTT) parameters retrieved from the received signaling message.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 19, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ ~~further includes~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received message based on a Global Title Address (GTA) from the GTT parameters.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions for routing a received signaling message by a signaling network node, the sequences of instructions including instructions for performing the steps of:

storing message class entries identifying respective message classes in a routing table, each message class entry specifying at least one destination link identifier for a corresponding destination link assigned to the corresponding message class;

classifying the received signaling message as assigned to a specific ~~one of the~~ message class ~~classes~~; based on prescribed message class selection criteria;

first selecting one of the message class entries based on the corresponding identified message class matching the specific message class of ~~classifying~~ the received signaling message; and

second selecting one of the destination links based on the at least one destination link identifier specified in the one message class entry.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The medium of claim 21, wherein:
the destination links are grouped in prescribed linksets having respective linkset identifiers;
the storing step includes storing linkset entries including destination point code entries and the respective assigned linkset identifiers; and
the first selecting step includes determining a match between a destination point code

value in the received signaling message and the destination point code entry of one of the linkset entries, and matching the ~~classified~~ received signaling message to the one message class entry specifying the at least one destination link within the one linkset identified by the one linkset entry.

23. (ORIGINAL) The medium of claim 22, wherein:

the storing step further includes storing in the routing table a signaling link selection entry associated with a corresponding one of the destination link identifiers;

the second selecting step includes selecting the one message class entry based on a match between a signaling link selection value in the received signaling message and one of the signaling link selection entries.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The medium of claim 22, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ includes prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on at least a portion of the destination point code.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The medium of claim 21, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ includes prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on identifying one of a plurality of input linksets having supplied the received signaling message.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The medium of claim 21, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ includes prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on prescribed user-selected selection criteria.

27. (ORIGINAL) The medium of claim 26, wherein the user-selected selection criteria includes a user-selected data pattern.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The medium of claim 21, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ includes prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on a service indicator value from the received signaling message.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The medium of claim 21, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ includes prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on global title translation (GTT) parameters retrieved from the received signaling message.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The medium of claim 29, wherein the ~~classifying step~~ further includes prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received message based on a Global Title Address (GTA) from the GTT parameters.

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A signaling network node configured for routing a received signaling message, the signaling network node comprising:

means for storing message class entries identifying respective message classes, each message class entry specifying at least one destination link identifier for a corresponding destination link assigned to the corresponding message class;

means for classifying the received signaling message as assigned to a specific one of the message class classes, based on prescribed message class selection criteria;

first means for selecting one of the message class entries based on the corresponding identified message class matching the specific message class of ~~classifying~~ the received signaling message; and

second means for selecting one of the destination links based on the at least one destination link identifier specified in the one message class entry.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 31, wherein:

the destination links are grouped in prescribed linksets having respective linkset

identifiers;

the storing means is configured for storing linkset entries including destination point code entries and the respective assigned linkset identifiers; and

the first means is configured for determining a match between a destination point code value in the received signaling message and the destination point code entry of one of the linkset entries, and matching the ~~classified~~ received signaling message to the one message class entry specifying the at least one destination link within the one linkset identified by the one linkset entry.

33. (ORIGINAL) The node of claim 32, wherein:

the storing means is configured for storing a signaling link selection entry associated with a corresponding one of the destination link identifiers;

the second means is configured for selecting the one message class entry based on a match between a signaling link selection value in the received signaling message and one of the signaling link selection entries.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 32, wherein the ~~classifying means is configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on at least a portion of the destination point code.

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 31, wherein the ~~classifying means is configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on identifying one of a plurality of input linksets having supplied the received signaling message.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 31, wherein the ~~classifying means is configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on prescribed user-selected selection criteria.

37. (ORIGINAL) The node of claim 36, wherein the user-selected selection criteria includes a user-selected data pattern.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 31, wherein the ~~classifying means is configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on a service indicator value from the received signaling message.

39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 31, wherein the ~~classifying means is configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received signaling message based on global title translation (GTT) parameters retrieved from the received signaling message.

40. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The node of claim 39, wherein the ~~classifying means is configured for~~ prescribed message class selection criteria include classifying the received message based on a Global Title Address (GTA) from the GTT parameters.